

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-64, 66, and 68-85 remain in this application. Claims 1-42, 44-61, 66, 70-73, 75-76 and 80-82, are withdrawn, claims 65, 67 and 86-88 have been cancelled.

Each of independent claims 43, 62, 83, 84, and 85 is limited to recite "an optical element comprising a curved reflection surface with positive power arranged to be decentered from a center axis of the beam of rays as reflected from the reflection surface for detection". Since this limitation covers the scope of claim 65, claim 65 is cancelled. Although the examiner seems to regard, in his rejection of claim 65, the beam splitting surface 25a of the prism 25 of Maruyama in Fig. 13 as having positive power, the surface 25a is a plane surface and thus has no positive power, much less having a rotationally asymmetric shape (claim 64, 68). Therefore, amended claims 43, 62, 83, 84 and 85 and other elected claims 63, 64, 68, 69, 74, 77, 78 and 79 dependent therefrom are not anticipated by or obvious from Maruyama and are now in the condition for allowance. In addition, claims 44-61, 66, and 70-76, since they depend on allowed claims should also be examined and allowed.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

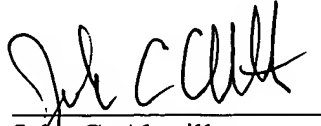
Applicants respectfully request a one month Extension of Time to respond to the Office Action of December 29, 2005. The extended period expires April 29, 2006.

Appl. No. 10/609,635  
Amdt. dated April 26, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2005

The Office is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$120.00 for a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 26, 2006

  
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